

## Foremost Makes the Move to 3D Design Software with IMAGINiT Technologies



**Foremost** is a large industrial manufacturer in Canada that specializes in equipment for companies in the oil and gas, mining, construction, waterwell, and agricultural industries. Through excellence in engineering and production, they consistently deliver products to the agreed specifications, performance, price, and delivery. Since 1940, they have been inventing, adapting, and evolving products to be more useful and profitable for their customers.



### From 2D to 3D Design Software

The Foremost Energy Equipment division consists of the head office located in Lloydminster as well as two fabrication locations in Lloydminster and one in Grande Prairie. Their in-house Engineering/Drafting team provides solutions for customer requirements as well as designs and shop drawings for products, including shop fabricated tanks, field fabricated tanks, pressure vessels, oil and gas production equipment, steam generation, ULC tanks, and their Agricultural product line.

Consistent with their strategy of evolving to meet market needs, the Energy Equipment division made the decision to move from 2D design software to 3D to work more intelligently, reduce the time it takes to get drawings to the shop floor, and attract top design professionals coming out of college.

Foremost reached out to two companies, including IMAGINiT, which had been its Autodesk software provider for decades. "IMAGINiT clearly stood out as the best solution provider," said Trevor Acker, drafting manager at Foremost. "In addition to having experience with manufacturing companies such as ours, they focused on us instead of the software. They came in, met with us to understand our needs and goals, and took a detailed look at our workflows, processes, and procedures. Then they came back with a proposal that met our needs, which we accepted." The proposal included:

- **The Autodesk Product Design and Manufacturing Collection.** "We decided to transition to Inventor as our primary design software to complement our AutoCAD use, and we determined that Vault and Inventor Nastran would also meet our needs," said Trevor. "They are all part of the collection, plus, we got access to several other tools that could prove useful when tackling challenges for clients."
- **IMAGINiT's ProductivityNOW eLearning Platform.** "We needed a way to train our people on the new software without having major disruptions in our workflow," said Trevor. "After reviewing ProductivityNOW, we recognized that its content suited our needs and its on-demand availability made it ideal for our employees."

"In addition to providing the best solutions, teaming with IMAGINiT meant reconnecting with Paul Hamonic, the team manager of IMAGINiT's Manufacturing Solutions Division," said Trevor. "Paul and I worked together decades ago. His team and their clients, including myself, benefit greatly from his experience and knowledge."



## Personalized Training Program Gets Teams Up-to-Speed on New Software

To ensure the time spent on training did not disrupt workflow, Foremost and IMAGINiT developed a training program that focused on each group's specific needs:

- **Drafting staff** learned Inventor. Each had to complete four modules before using the software on active projects. If the training module contained lessons on topics not applicable to Foremost's projects, those lessons were NOT assigned. This approach allowed the users to maximize their training time and ensured learning was applicable to real-life challenges.
- **Engineering staff** learned Inventor and Inventor Nastran. In some cases, the manager assigned the courses and tracked progress, and other times the individuals worked independently.

"By customizing the curriculum, we ensured everyone got the information they needed in the least amount of time," said Trevor.

## Access to ProductivityNOW Content Expands Knowledge in Other Areas

Foremost's drafting and engineering staff are natural problem solvers. They dive into challenges, and ProductivityNOW gives them a solid resource for learning how Autodesk software can help. Here are a few examples of how they have used ProductivityNOW in ways beyond those required for their roles:

- A plant supervisor took some AutoCAD and Fusion 360 classes to learn how to map out his shop and determine how work would flow through the shop, so he could map out a better work flow and increase efficiencies.
- A production worker who runs the plasma table took some AutoCAD classes to enhance his software knowledge and to be able to create his own shape files for cutting.
- A plant supervisor learned how to create a 3D model of his shop in Autodesk Recap from a photo by learning the process and then testing it on a small object.

"Our contract with IMAGINiT allows up to 33 named ProductivityNOW users, which means there is room for us to get everyone trained on the products needed for their jobs and individuals to get additional training in areas that interest them," said Trevor.

## Results

Foremost's ongoing goals of their investment in ProductivityNOW are for users to become proficient in Inventor software, build their model library, and eventually customize the software to aid in improving the time it takes to get drawings to the shop floor.

"It was the right time to step into the 3D environment," said Trevor. "We produce better designs and drawings, and we attract professionals who want to work with the latest technologies. And ProductivityNOW continues to be the best training solution for us. Long-time employees, new hires, and even summer interns easily access the classes they need," said Trevor. "Feedback is that it is easy to navigate and its content is thorough, so people can get the information they need and get back to projects."

He continued, "As the drafting manager, I am generally the go-to person for questions. Since getting everyone access to ProductivityNOW, I have seen a reduction in those questions. People are finding answers themselves, which boosts their confidence and productivity while at the same time frees up my time for more project work."

**Contact us** for information on how we can help your team get up-to-speed on the latest Autodesk technology.

## Solutions Beyond Software

IMAGINiT Technologies, a division of Rand Worldwide, helps architects and engineers become more proficient in the use of 3D technologies to design, develop and manage complex engineering projects faster and more cost-effectively.